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CLASSICAL ARABIC - THE WRITING SYSTEM



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CLASSICAL ARABIC . THE WRITING SYSTEM

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CLASSICAL ARABIC . THE WRITING SYSTEM

0. Arabic is customarily written and printed in a special alphabet of its own, called the Arabic alphabet, consisting of 28 LETTERS and a number of SIGNS. Some of the salient features of this alphabet are as follows:

1. Arabic is written and printed from right to left.
2. Normally only the consonants and the long vowels are indicated.
3. There are no capital letters.
4. The manner of writing is cursive and most of the letters are connected to preceding and following letters within the same word.
5. Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on whether they are connected to preceding and/or following letters or not.
6. Some letters are identical in basic form and are distinguished from one another by small dots.
7. The system of writing described here is the handwriting commonly used in the Syrian area. In other parts of the Arab world, and in Iran, the handwriting styles vary from slightly to considerably different. Printing types also vary, some being quite complex and ornate.

1. The alphabet

The following list shows the letters of the Arabic alphabet in the shape they have when they stand alone, that is, not connected to a preceding or following letter. This is the order of the alphabet adopted by most dictionaries. The signs will be discussed later.

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic letter
ʔ, aa	ʔálif	
b	báaʔ	ب
t	táaʔ	ت or ت
o	oáaʔ	ث or ث

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic Letter
j	jíim	ج
ɲ	ɲáaʔ	ح
x	xáaʔ kh	خ
d	dáal	د
ð	ðáal	ذ
r	ráaʔ	ر
z	záay	ز
s	sín	س or س
ʃ	ʃín	ش or ش
ʂ	ʂáad	ص
ɖ	ɖáad	ض
t	táaʔ	ط
ʈ	ʈáaʔ	ظ
ɣ	ɣáyn	ع
ʁ	ʁáyn	غ
f	fáaʔ	ف
q	qáaf	ق or ق

Usual sound value	Arabic name	Arabic Letter
k	káaf	ك or ك
l	láam	ل
m	míim	م
n	núun	ن
h	háa?	ه or ح
w , uu	wáaw	و
y , ii	yáa?	ي or ي

The following shows the Arabic letters in their alphabetical order and written from right to left. Note the placing of the letters relative to the line of writing.

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ ر ز س ش ص ض
ط ظ ع غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و ي

2. The following 6 letters are NON-CONNECTORS. They do not form a cursive linking to a following letter, though they do connect to a preceding letter other than another non-connector.

| **ʿālif** is characteristically a vertical stroke

ا **dáal**

آ **ōáal** is exactly like **dáal**, but with one dot above it.

ر **ráa?**

ز **záay** is exactly like **ráa?**, but with one dot above it

و **wáaw**

3. Short vowels

dárasa	دَرَسَ	dáraka	دَرَكَ
wárada	وَرَدَ	rázaqa	رَزَقَ
wázara	وَزَرَ	wádaʕa	وَدَعَ
wáraša	وَرَشَ	wázana	وَزَنَ

All the above words show the sign ˘ fátḥah above each consonant letter. This sign indicates that each consonant is followed by the vowel a.

wúzina	وُزِنَ	wúriʕa	وُريتَ
wúzira	وُزِرَ	wúdiʕa	وُديعَ
rúziqa	رُزِقَ	dúrika	دُرِكَ
wúriša	وُريشَ	dúriša	دُريشَ

All the above words show the sign ˙ dāmīyah above the first consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel u.

All these words also show the sign ˘ kásrah below the second consonant letter. This sign indicates that the consonant is followed by the vowel i.

4. Long vowels

záala	زَالَ	šáaqa	زَاتَ
záara	زَارَ	šáata	زَاتَ
záada	زَادَ	ráaja	رَاجَ
dáana	دَانَ	ráaʕa	رَاعَ

záaḡa	زَاغَ	dáara	زَارَ
dáama	زَامَ	wáara	وَاحَ
ráana	رَاخَ	ḡáaba	زَابَ
ráaqa	زَاقَ	ráama	زَامَ

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ˘ fátḡah immediately followed by an / ʔálif. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel aa.

rúuhu	رُوحَ	ḡúu	زُؤَ
zúuru	زُورُ	dúumu	زُومُ
dúuru	دُورُ	dúuma	زُونَ
dúuju	دُوجَ	rúufu	زُوعُ

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ˙ dāmḡah immediately followed by a ُ wáaw. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel uu.

wáadii	وَادِي	ḡfi	زِي
dáarii	زَارِي	zúurii	زُورِي
		dúurii	دُورِي

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ˋ kásrah immediately followed by a ِي yáa?. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel ii.

5. ʔálif maqṣúurah

wáraa	وَرَى	dáraa	دَرَى
dáwaa	دَوَى	wádaa	وَدَى
dáaraa	دَارَى	rádaa	رَدَى
		ráwaa	رَوَى

All the above words show a consonant with the sign ˘ fátḥah immediately followed by an undotted ى yáaʔ. This sequence indicates that the consonant is followed by the long vowel aa.

This way of indicating the long vowel aa occurs only at the end of a word. It is called ʔálif maqṣúurah. You will have to learn individually the words that are written with ʔálif maqṣúurah instead of with | ʔálif (cf. Section 4) as there is no general rule to follow.

6. Nunation

rudúudun	رُودُودٌ	dáarun	دَارٌ
dúwalun	دُؤَالٌ	wáaridun	وَارِدٌ
wurúudun	وُرُودٌ	wáraqun	وَرَقٌ
wáariṭun	وَارِثٌ	zawáalun	زَوَالٌ
wadáaʔun	وَدَاعٌ	dawáamun	دَوَامٌ

All the above words show the sign ˆ dammatáan 'two dammahs' above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -un. This sign is also written as " and " .

rúu ^h in	رُوح	dáahin	دَاهِ
wáa ^h in	وَافِ	rása ^h in	رَاعِ
wáa ^h in	وَإِ	wáadin	وَإِ
dáamin	دَامِ	dúwalin	دَوَلِ
dáarin	دَارِ	zawáajin	زَوَاجِ

All the above words show the sign = kasratáan 'two kasrahs' below the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -in.

wáaridan	وَارِدًا	dáaran	دَارًا
zúuran	زُورًا	rudúudan	رُدُودًا
wurúudan	وُرُودًا	dúuran	دُورًا

All the above words show the sign = fatḥatáan 'two fatḥahs' above the last consonant. This sign indicates the ending -an. The sign = fatḥatáan usually occurs with an | ʔálif, as in these examples. Note that here the letter | ʔálif does not indicate the long vowel aa.

The n of these endings as well as this method of indicating it is called NUNATION; the Arabic term is tanwīn. Nunation occurs only at the end of a word.

rádan	رَدًى	wázan	وَزًى
ríwan	رِوًى	dáwan	دَوًى

The above words show the sign = fatḥatáan over a consonant that is immediately followed by an undotted ى yaaʔ. You will have to learn the relatively few words that are written this way instead of with an | ʔálif, as there is no general rule to follow.

7. sukúun

ráy	رَیْ	dárbun	دَرَبْ
zúrtu	زُرْتُ	wáznun	وَزَنْ
dársun	دَرَسْ	záwjun	زَوْجْ
zárʿun	زَرَعَ	dáwrun	دَوْرْ
wáy	وَيْ	wárdun	وَرْدْ

All the above words show the sign ° sukúun above the second consonant. This indicates that the consonant has no following vowel. This sign is also called jázmah.

8. Šáddah

ráddada	رَدَّدَ	dábbun	دَبَّ
dáallun	دَالَ	wáddun	وَدَّ
záwwaja	زَوَّجَ	dállā	دَلَّ
zuwwáarun	زَوَّارَ	ðábbun	ذَبَّ
wázzaʿa	وَزَّعَ	rábbun	رَبَّ

All the above words show the sign ~ Šáddah over the second consonant. This sign indicates that the consonant is doubled. The process of doubling a consonant is called tašdíd and this term is also used to refer to the sign.

9. Non-connectors following another letter

The letter ل láam, when connected to a following letter only, has the form ل. This letter will be discussed in detail in Section 14.

1. ل connected to d

ládaa	لَدَى	ládaḡa	لَدَغْ
wáladun	وَلَدَ	wáladat	وَلَدَتْ

2. ل connected to ḏ

láḏaḡa	لَدَغْ	láḏḏa	لَدَّ
láḏaba	لَدَبْ	láḏima	لَدِمَ

3. ل connected to r

lirábbin	لِرَبِّ	liráaḡin	لِرَاعِ
lirúuḡin	لِرُوحِ	lirízqin	لِرِزْقِ

4. ل connected to z

lázima	لِزْمَ	luzúumun	لُزُومَ
lizáamun	لِزَامَ	zálzala	زَلَزَلَ

5. ل connected to w

láu	لَوْ	láuḡun	لَوْحَ
láuwaḡa	لَوَّثَ	láuwnun	لَوْنَ

6. 1 connected to ʔálif has a special form

záalaa	زَالَا	lāa	لَا
dúwalan	دَوَلَا	lāana	لَاخ
daláalun	دَلَال	lāazama	لَاَزَمَ

10. Connected letters

Most of the letters have three or more variant shapes, depending on their position in a sequence of letters, that is, whether they stand at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the sequence, or stand alone. Many letters, when standing at the end of a sequence or alone, have a variant with a flourishing final stroke. The variant with the flourish is often quite different from the other variants of the same letter.

In the following sections each letter will be taken up separately and the variant shapes will be given in the following order.

1. Connected to the following letter only.
2. Connected to the preceding and following letters.
3. Connected to the preceding letter only.
4. Standing alone.

11. The letter س sīn is characteristically a series of three upward pointed strokes. In handwriting the three upward strokes are usually omitted and the letter is a horizontal straight line.

1. s- connected to the following letter only

sudúudun	سُدُود	sárra	سَرَّ
síwaa	سَوَى	sáawaa	سَاوَى
sáara	سَارَ	rasúulun	رَسُول

2. -s- connected to the preceding and following letters

lisiráajin	لِسِرَاجٍ	lisáanun	لِسَانٌ
lisúuqin	لِسُوقٍ	lásada	لَسَدَ
lisáddin	لِسَدٍ	lásaa	لَا

3. -s- connected to the preceding letter only

dállasa	دَلَّسَ	lássa	لَسَّ
		dássasa	دَلَّسَ

4. s standing alone

lawwáasun	لَوَّاسٌ	sáadisun	سَادِسٌ
durúusun	دُرُوسٌ	dársun	دَرَسٌ

Additional examples.

دَرَّ	رَعَامٌ	سَوَّاقٌ
سُرُورٌ	سَارَتْ	سَادِجٌ
سَاغٌ	سَدَسٌ	سَامٍ
دَرْزٌ	رُحُومٌ	رَخْوٌ

12. The letter ش šīn has the same basic form as the letter س sīn, but with the addition of three dots above it. In handwriting the dots are usually connected, forming a small tent-like mark.

1. Š- connected to the following letter only

šáddat	هَدَّتْ	šáaraká	هَارَكَ
šártun	هَرَطْ	šárafun	هَرَفْ
šáwqun	هَوَّقْ	šárqin	هَرَقِ

2. -š- connected to the preceding and following letters

lišáariš in	لِشَارِعِ	lišáwqin	لِشَوَّقِ
lášwan	لَشَوَّا	lišárafin	لِشَرَفِ

3. -š- connected to the preceding letter only

lášša	لَشَّسْ
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4. š standing alone

wáraša	وَرَشْ	rášša	رَشَّسْ
rišáašun	رِشَاشْ	lášša	لَشَّسْ

Additional examples.

هَدَّتْ	هَرَفْ	هَارَعَ
هَرَجْ	وَشَّى	رُشِدْ
لِشَرَطِ	هَوَارِعْ	هَرُوطْ

13. The letter ك káaf is characteristically a vertical stroke with a slanting line connecting to the top from the right.

1. k- connected to the following letter only

káðaa	كَذَا	ðákara	ذَكَرَ
kárrama	كَرَّمَ	kiráamun	كَرِّمَ
wákadat	وَلَدَتْ	káwnun	كَوْنٌ

2. -k- connected to the preceding and following letters

sukfutin	مَكُوتٍ	šúkran	مَكْرًا
lákaša	لَكَّشَ	sukfúnun	مَكُونٌ
šákara	مَكَّرَ	súkkarun	مَكَّرَ

3. -k connected to the preceding letter only

síkakun	مَكَكَ	šákka	مَكَكَ
wáškun	وَمَكَكَ	láka	لَكَ

4. k standing alone

dáraka	ذَرَكَ	šukfúkun	مُكُوتٌ
šárraka	شَرَكَ	ðáaka	ذَاكَ

5. káaf plus ʔálif has a special form

rukkaabun	رُكَّابٌ	káana	كَانَ
sákker	سَكَّاهٌ	sukkaanun	سُكَّانٌ

Additional examples.

كَذَّبَ	زَكَرَتْ	سَلَّزَتْ
كَافٍ	كَوَارِثٌ	كَوْرَةٌ
كَوْنٌ	كَادَ	وَكَّرَ

14. The letter ل láam is characteristically a vertical stroke. It differs from | ʔálif chiefly by connecting to a following letter.

1. 1- connected to the following letter only

láõõa	لَآءٌ	láu	لَوْ
lawnin	لَوْنٌ	lázima	لَبِزِمَ
láama	لَامٌ	wáladan	وَلَدًا

2. -1- connected to the preceding and following letters

sulfukun	سُلُوكٌ	sílkun	سِلْكٌ
sálisa	سَلِسٌ	ráasalaa	رَاسِلَا
síláagun	سِلَاحٌ	sálaka	سَلَكٌ

3. -l connected to the preceding letter only

ráasala	رَاسَلْ	sál	سَلْ
rúsulin	رُسُلِيْ	sálla	سَلْ

4. l standing alone

rasúulun	رَسُوْلْ	dállla	دَلْ
dúwalin	دَوَلِ	záala	زَالْ

5. láam immediately preceded by káaf has a special form

šáklun	شَكْلْ	kúllu	كُلْ
šáakilun	شَاكِلْ	kaláamun	كَلَامْ
kálada	كَلَدْ	šákkalaa	شَكَلَا

Additional examples.

كَلَبْ	دَالْ	لِزَامْ
لَكَ	لَدِرِمْ	كَلَلْ
كَكْرَهْ	كَكَ	كَكْرَهْ

15. The letter م mím is characteristically a small circle, often merely a dot or a downward break in the line.

1. m- connected to the following letter only

márkazun	مَرْكَزْ	máwridun	مَوْرِدْ
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makáanun	مَكَانَ	máadin	مَاضِي
mašrúufun	مَشْرُوعٌ	maráakizu	مَرَكَزُ
márrat	مَرَّتْ	máa	مَا

2. -m connected to the preceding and following letters

šimáalan	شِمَالًا	lámmaa	لَمَّا
kamáa	كَمَّا	mamáaliku	مَمَالِكُ
šámsun	شَمْسٌ	sámmam	سَمَّا

3. -m connected to the preceding letter only

lám	لَمْ	súmmun	سُمِّمَ
máwsimun	مَوْسِمٌ	sállama	سَلِّمَ
rásmin	رَسِمَ	lákum	لَكُمُ

4. m standing alone

marsuumun	مَرْوَمٌ	saláamun	سَلَّمَ
láama	لَمَّ	kiréamun	كَرَّمَ

Additional examples.

مَرَّاسِلُ	مَذْكُورٌ	مَقَابِلُ
كَاتَمٌ	مَوَادُّ	خَائِلٌ
مَالٍ	لِمَاذَا	رَمَى

16. The letter ب báa? is characteristically an upward tooth-like stroke with one dot below it.

1. b- connected to the following letter only

báššarat	بَشَّرَتْ	bíkum	بِكُمْ
baláaḡun	بَلَاغٌ	barlamáni	بَرْلَمَانٍ
bádwun	بَدْوٌ	biláadun	بِلَادٌ

2. -b- connected to the preceding and following letters

lábisa	لَبِيسَ	kúbraa	كُبْرَى
kibáarun	كِبَارٌ	súbulin	سُبُلٍ
sábban	سَبَّأٌ	mubáaširun	مُبَاشِرٌ

3. -b connected to the preceding letter only

márkabun	مَرَكَبٌ	sábabin	سَبَبٍ
sálbín	سَلْبٍ	rákiba	رَكِبَ

4. b standing alone

báabun	بَابٌ	dárbun	دَرْبٌ
šáriba	شَرِبَ	káōōaba	كَذَّبَ

Additional examples.

سَبَبٌ	مَبْرُوكٌ	بَاتٌ
بَاقٌ	بَرَكَ	سَبَاقٌ
بَرَحٌ	كَبَّرَ	مَبْرُوكٌ

17. The letter ي yáa' is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots below it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. y- connected to the following letter only

šadíidun	شَدِيدٌ	yáwmun	يَوْمٌ
yakúunu	يَلُونُ	yadúuru	يَدُورُ
yusallimúuna	يُسَلِّمُونَ	baríidun	بَرِيدٌ
yasúuduhu	يُسُودُ	yazfidu	يَزِيدُ

2. -y- connected to the preceding and following letters

sáyyidun	سَيِّدٌ	yawmíyyan	يَوْمِيًّا
miláadun	مِيلَادٌ	láysa	لَيْسَ
maydáanun	مَيِّدَانٌ	kabíirun	كَبِيرٌ

3. -y connected to the preceding letter only

káy	كَيِّ	rasmíyyun	رَسْمِيٌّ
malakíyyun	مَلَكِيٌّ	yármii	يَرْمِي
maalíyyin	مَالِيٌّ	siyaasíyyun	سِيَاسِيٌّ

4. y standing alone

markazíyyin	مَرْكَزِيٌّ	baladíyyun	بَلَدِيٌّ
wuddíyyun	وُدِّيٌّ	yádril	يَذَرِي
bašaríyyun	بَشَرِيٌّ	barríyyun	بَرِّيٌّ

Additional examples.

مِيزَانٌ	كَرِيمٌ	وَزِيرٌ
وَكِيلٌ	شِمَالِيٌّ	لِي
يُشْرِفُ	يَعْدُخُ	يُكَلِّمُ

18. The letter **Ū** **nūn** is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with one dot above it.

1. n- connected to the following letter only

nāadin	نَادٍ	nāšarat	نَشَرَتْ
nāzala	نَزَلَ	nuwwaabun	نَوَّابٌ
nawāaḡin	نَوَّاحٍ	nāala	نَالَ
našāaṭun	نَشَّاطٌ	nāzaṣa	نَزَعَ

2. -n- connected to the preceding and following letters

yanzilūma	يَنْزِلُونَ	yānšuru	يَنْشُرُ
mānzilin	مَنْزِلٍ	banāahu	بَنَاهُ
munāasibun	مُنَاسِبٌ	mandūubun	مَنْدُوبٌ

3. -n connected to the preceding letter only

yūnkim	يُمْكِنُ	mīn	مِنْ
sākana	كَانَ	bāyna	بَيْنَ
lān	لَنْ	mākkana	تَلَنْ

4. n standing alone

múduni	مُدُنِ	yakúunu	يَكُونُ
bayáanun	بَيَّانٌ	makáanun	مَكَانٌ
miizáanin	مِيزَانِ	sinúuna	سِنُونُ

5. The sequence written as nb is often pronounced as mb, as follows:

mínbarun	<u>or</u>	mímbarun	مِنْبَرٌ
yánbusu	<u>or</u>	yámbusu	يَنْبُسُ
ðánbun	<u>or</u>	ðámbun	ذَنْبٌ

Additional examples.

مَنْ	بَيْنَ	نَوْعٌ
مَنْكِنٌ	نِيرَانٌ	نَالَةٌ
يُبَيِّنُ	مَنَاصِصٌ	مِنْبَرٌ

19. The letter ت táa? is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with two dots above it. In handwriting the two dots are usually connected, forming a short horizontal stroke.

1. t- connected to the following letter only

tadbírun	تَدْبِيرٌ	taláwnaa	تَلَوْنًا
támma	تَمَامٌ	tamáaman	تَمَامًا
táðkuru	تَذَكُّرٌ	tílka	تِلْكَ

2. -t- connected to the preceding and following letters

mátaa	تَتَى	tamtáddu	تَمَتَدَّ
taštáriku	تَشْتَرِكُ	dawlatáani	دَوْلَتَانِ
yatímmu	يَتِمُّ	tátruku	تَتْرُكُ
yátluu	يَتْلُو	tutámmiinu	تُتَمِّمُ

3. -t- connected to the preceding letter only

támmat	تَمَّتْ	náalat	نَالَتْ
káanat	كَانَتْ	dúrisat	دُرِسَتْ
lástu	لَسْتُ	táarakat	تَرَكْتُ
báytun	بَيْتٍ	káuntu	كُنْتُ

4. t standing alone

sayyaaráatun	سَيَّارَاتُ	ḏúkirat	ذِكْرَاتُ
márrat	مَرَّاتُ	zúrta	زُرَّتُ
záadat	زَادَتْ	sayyidáatun	سَيِّدَاتُ
kalimáatin	كَلِمَاتُ	wáddat	وَدَّاتُ

Additional examples.

نَزَلَتْ
دَوْلَتَانِ
لَيْسَتْ

زَلَزَلَتْ
تَكَلَّنُ
رَمَيْتُ

تَدَابِيرُ
تَلَدُ
زَادَتْ

20. The letter ث θāa? is characteristically a tooth-like stroke with three dots above it. In handwriting the three dots are usually connected, forming a tent-like mark.

1. θ- connected to the following letter only

θāaminun	ثَامِنٌ	θāanin	ثَانٍ
θāmanun	ثَمَنٌ	θūmaa	ثُمَّ
θābbata	ثَبَّتَ	θuwāarin	ثَوَّارٍ

2. -θ- connected to the preceding and following letters

miθāaqun	مِثَاقٌ	miθalum	مِثْلٌ
tamθilun	تَمَثِيلٌ	kaθifirun	كَثِيرٌ
yūθbitu	يُثْبِتُ	mumáθθilin	مُمَثِّلٌ

3. -θ- connected to the preceding letter only

mākaθa	مَكَاتٌ	bāθa	بَتَّ
θālum	ثَلَّتْ	θāaliθun	ثَالِتٌ

4. θ standing alone

láwwa θ a	لَوَّثَ	wári θ a	وَرِثَ
wári θ in	وَارِثَ	yári θ u	يَرِثَ

Additional examples.

كَثُرَتْ	ثِيَابَ	مَوْتُوقَ
وُثُوقِ	ثَبَّتَ	ثَلَاثُونَ

21. The letter \bigcirc háa? does not have any one characteristic form.

1. h- connected to the following letter only

biláaduhaa	بِلَادُهَا	híya	هِيَ
háammin	هَامِّمَ	húnaa	هَنَا
ðahábtu	ذَهَبْتُ	hunáaka	هَمَاكَ

2. -h- connected to the preceding and following letters

láhaa	لَهَا	šáhrun	شَهْرٌ
yuhímmu	يُحِمُّ	tahiidíyyun	تَحِيدِيٌّ
mašhúuran	مَشُورًا	tahtámmu	تَحْتَمُّ
láhum	لَهُمْ	bíhaa	بِهَا

3. -h connected to the preceding letter only

našaráthu	نَشَرْتُهُ	láhu	لَهُ
sallamáthu	سَلَّمْتُهُ	málikuhu	مَلِكُهُ
mínhu	مِنْهُ	yášbahu	يَسْبَهُ

4. h standing alone

banáahu	بَنَاهُ	murúurihi	مُرُورِهِ
yasúuduhu	يُودُهُ	yákrahu	يَكْرَهُ

Additional examples.

مِيَاةٌ	يَنْتَمِ	كَدَمَتْ
مُتَمِّمٌ	حَبَّةٌ	نَشَكْرُهُ
شَرِيرٌ	لَهْدٌ	كَلْ

22. táa? marbúutah

siyáasatan	سِيَاةٌ	dáwlatun	دَوْلَةٌ
šárikatun	شَرَكَةٌ	biziyáaratun	بِزْيَارَةٌ
kálimatin	كَلِمَةٌ	múddatan	مُدَّةٌ
nášratun	نَشْرَةٌ	sayyáaratun	سَيَّارَةٌ
wizáaratun	وِزَارَةٌ	tanhiidíyyatan	تَنْهِيدِيَّةٌ

mašhúuratun

مَشْهُورَةٌ

madfínatun

مَدِينَةٌ

All the above words end in the composite letter \tilde{o} táa' marbúutah, which is composed of the letter \tilde{o} háa' plus the two dots of the letter \tilde{t} táa'. This composite letter represents the phoneme t. The táa' marbúutah occurs only at the end of a word. Note that the sign " fatnatáan is placed immediately above the \tilde{o} táa' marbúutah, with no accompanying 'álif (cf. Section 6).

Additional examples.

نُبْرَةٍ	نِيَّةٍ	كَبِيرَةٍ
مُرْتَمَةٍ	مَادَّةٍ	مَلَلَةٍ

23. hámzah with 'álif

The sign ' hámzah represents the phoneme '. It is characteristically a small hook-like figure and often appears together with an accompanying | 'álif, as in the following examples. Note that in such cases the | 'álif merely serves as a support for the ' hámzah and does not indicate the long vowel aa. The writing of hámzah is taken up in detail in Section 36.

1. hámzah at the beginning of a word

'išráafun	إِشْرَافٍ	'án	أَنَّ
'ílaa	إِلَى	'ámsi	أَمْسِ
'umúurun	أُمُورٍ	'áwwali	أَوَّلِ
'ustáaḏun	أُسْتَاذٍ	'aḏáafa	أَذَاعَ
'úmamin	أُمَمٍ	'inna	إِنَّ
'usbúufun	أُسْبُوعٍ	'isláamun	إِسْلَامٍ

All the above words show the sign ʾ hāmzah with an accompanying ʾ ʾālif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʾ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is immediately followed by a short vowel. Note that the sign ʾ hāmzah is above the ʾ ʾālif if the following vowel is a or u, and below it if the following vowel is i.

2. hāmzah in the middle of a word

tāsʾalu	تَسْأَلُ	rāʾyun	رَأَيْ
masʾālatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ	ḡāʾnun	حَانٌ
bādaʾat	بَدَأَتْ	rāʾsan	رَأً
saʾāltu	سَأَلْتُ	taʾmīnun	تَأْمِينٌ
taʾākkada	تَأَلَّدَ	taʾkīdun	تَأْكِيدٌ

All the above words show the sign ʾ hāmzah over an ʾ ʾālif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʾ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is either preceded or followed by short a — but not by i or u.

Additional examples.

الَّذِي	إِبْتَدَأَتْ	هَدَأَتْ
إِلَّا	إِذَا	تَأْثِيرًا
إِمْتِيَاذًا	رَأَى	أَرْسَلَتْهَا

24. The letter ف fāaʾ is characteristically a small loop with a single dot above it.

1. f- connected to the following letter only

ffihaa	فِيهَا	fāazat	فَازَتْ
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wáfdin	وَفِدٍ	ffi	فِي
faarisíyyun	فَارِسِيٍّ	sáafara	سَافَرَ
falláaṣun	فَلَّاحَ	fáarraḡa	فَرَّغَ

2. -f- connected to the preceding and following letters

káfalat	كَفَلَتْ	yafúuzu	يَفُوزُ
náfsihi	نَفْسِهِ	saffirun	سَفِيرٌ
ʔalfáaḡun	أَلْفَاظُ	tafáahumin	تَفَاهُصُم

3. -f connected to the preceding letter only

tataʔállafa	تَتَأَلَّفُ	ʔálifun	أَلِفٌ
sáalifun	سَالِفٌ	kállafa	كَلَّفَ
taʔlífifin	تَأْلِيفٍ	ʔiltáffa	إِلْتَفَّ

4. f standing alone

sáwfa	سَوْفَ	káafin	كَافٍ
ʔáṣrafa	أَصْرَفَ	ʔiṣráaḡun	إِصْرَافٌ

Additional examples.

إِلْتَفَّتْ	أَوْفَدَ	دَقَّاعٌ
فَرَّةٌ	سَفَرَةٌ	وُفُودٍ
فَتِيٍّ	لَفِيفٌ	سُفُنٌ

25. The letter ق qáaf is basically a small loop like ف fáa? but with two dots above it.

1. q- connected to the following letter only

qád	قَدَ	qáama	قَامَ
qáddama	قَدَّمَ	qaráaran	قَرَارًا
qábla	قَبْلَ	qúwwatun	قُوَّةَ
fírqatun	فِرْقَةَ	šárqan	شَرْقًا

2. -q- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔáqlqaa	أَلْقَى	taqáddamat	تَقَدَّمَتْ
taqríiruhum	تَقْرِيرُهُمْ	ʔistiqláalun	اِسْتِقْلَالًا
maqaaláatihi	مَقَالَاتِهِ	ʔalqáwlu	الْقَوْلُ

3. -q connected to the preceding letter only

sábaqa	سَبَقَ	wáafaqa	وَأَفَقَ
ʔaníqun	أَنِقَ	sáabiqun	سَابِقَ
tafríiqin	تَفْرِيقَ	ʔittáfaqa	اِتَّفَقَ

4. q standing alone

mawṭuqun	مَوْتُوقَ	ʔittifáaqun	اِتِّفَاقَ
yufárriqu	يُفَرِّقُ	sáaqa	سَاقَ
ʔaswáaqun	أَسْوَاقَ	nifáaqun	نِفَاقَ

Additional examples

أَلْقَرَنُ	دَقِيقَةٌ	يُقَالُ
شَرْقِيَّةٌ	مَوْقِفٌ	إِقَامَةٌ
قَدِيمَةٌ	إِسْتِقَالَةٌ	وَقْتُ

26. The letter ج jīm is characteristically a wedge-shaped letter with one dot below it. Note that a preceding letter connects to it from above and to the right.

1. j- connected to the following letter only

jadíidatun	جَدِيدَةٌ	jibáalun	جِبَالٌ
járaa	جَرَى	jíddan	جِدًّا
jalsátuhaa	جَلَسَتْهَا	waʔajáabahu	وَأَجَابَهُ
ʔistáʔjara	إِسْتَأْجَرَ	jawwíyyun	جَوِّيٌّ

2. -j- connected to the preceding and following letters

tattájihu	تَتَجَّهُ	natfijatin	نَتِيجَةٌ
fayajlisúuna	فَيَجْلِسُونَ	lájnatun	لَجَنَةٌ
ʔaljálsatu	الْجَلْسَةُ	ʔalmájlisu	الْمَجْلِسُ

3. -j connected to the preceding letter only

barnáamaju	بَرْنَامَجْ	nasíijin	نَسِيجٍ
tatwíijin	تَتْوِيجٍ	yúntiju	يُنْتِجُ

múntajin	مُنْتَجٍ	tadríijun	تَدْرِيجٍ
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4. j standing alone

watazáwwaja	وَتَزَوَّجَ	tadárrujun	تَدَرَّجَ
yanfárijū	يَنْفَرِجُ	mansúujin	مَنْوُجٍ

Additional examples.

تَجَارِي	أَنْجِشْ	دَرَجَاتٍ
جَرِيدَةٌ	تُجَارَ	إِنْتَاجٍ
سَيَجْلِسُ	أُجْرَةٌ	تَجَاخٍ

27. The letter ح háa' is exactly like ج jíim but has no dots.

1. -ح- connected to the following letter only

hizbihi	حِزْبِهِ	hárbun	هَرْبٍ
háttā	حَتَّى	hadíiθun	هَدِيثٍ
hámalat	حَمَلَتْ	ʔiqtirāaháatun	إِقْتِرَاحَاتٍ
haflātuhum	حَفَلَتْهُمْ	hukúumatun	مُكْرَمَةٌ

2. -ح- connected to the preceding and following letters

taḥúdduhu	تَحَدُّهُ	ʔalḥáarakatu	أَلْكَرَالَةُ
ʔalḥurúubu	أَلْخُرُوبُ	wabáhaθat	وَبَحَثَتْ
tuhíbbu	تُحِبُّ	ʔalbáḥru	أَلْبَحْرُ

3. -н connected to the preceding letter only

tásmahu	تَسْمَحُ	muráššahanun	مُرَاشَّحُ
máhana	مَنْحُ	ʔiftátana	اِفْتَتَحُ
tasállunin	تَسْلَحُ	ráššana	رَاشَّحُ

4. н standing alone

ʔiqtarana	اِقْتَرَحُ	maftúunun	مَفْتُوحُ
rúunin	رُوحُ	siláaun	سِلْدَحُ
nawáanin	نَوَاحُ	ʔiftitáaun	اِفْتِتَاحُ

Additional examples.

تَوْحِيدًا	مَحَلٌّ	مَهِتُ
مَوْلٍ	سَمَاحَةٌ	نَحْوُ
تَحْتَ	مُحَادَثَاتٌ	اِقْتِرَاحُ

28. The letter خ xaaʔ is exactly like ج jím but with one dot above it.

1. x- connected to the following letter only

ʔalʔaxbáaru	أَلْخَبَارُ	xábarun	مَخْبَرٌ
ʔáxaðat	أَخَذَتْ	xiláafan	خِلَافًا
naaxibúuna	نَاخِبُونَ	ʔaxíiran	أَخِيرًا
xaarijíyyatun	خَارِجِيَّةٌ	xárajaa	خَرَجًا

2. -x- connected to the preceding and following letters

bixáyrin	بَخَيْرِ	sayáxruju	سَيَخْرُجُ
?ittáxaðat	اِتَّخَذَتْ	?intáxaba	اِنْتَخَبَ
muxtálifatun	مُخْتَلِفَةٌ	?alxáaṣṣu	اَلْخَاصُّ

3. -x- connected to the preceding letter only

taarfíxun	تَارِخٌ	šáyxun	شَيْخٌ
šámaxa	شَمَخَ	tarsífixin	تَرْسِيخٍ
yársuxu	يَرْسُخُ	máslaxun	مَسْلَخٌ

4. x standing alone

šuyúuxun	شُيُوخٌ	?árraxa	أَرَّخَ
?áxun	أَخٌ	rusúuxin	رُسُوخٍ

Additional examples.

إِخْلَاصٌ	تَأْخِيرًا	أَخْطَا صَ
يَخْتَلِفُ	إِخْوَانٌ	هَبِيرٌ
رَسَخَتْ	تُخَالِفُ	أُخْرَى

29. máddah

ra?áahu	رَأَوْ	?aaθáarun	آرَأَوْ
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ʔalqurʔáanu	الْقُرْآنُ	ʔalʔáana	الآنَ
taʔáamara	تَأَمَّرَ	ʔáatin	آتٍ
bádaʔaa	بَدَأَ	ʔalʔáaxaru	الَّذِمْ
ʔáaxaõa	آخَذَ	ʔaaláafun	آلَفَ

All the above words show the sign — máddah over an | ʔálif. This composite letter indicates the sequence ʔ followed by the long vowel aa. This method of indicating the sequence ʔaa is used when the phoneme ʔ is (1) at the beginning of a word or (2) is within a word and preceded by a consonant or by the vowel a.

Additional examples.

آمَنَ	آثَرَ	مَآدِبُ
مَآكِلُ	آمَانٌ	آخِرُ
آوِنَةٌ	آلَمَ	آفَاقٌ

30. The letter ع ʔáyn is characteristically a small flattened loop.

1. ʔ- connected to the following letter only

dáʔat	دَعَتْ	ʔáadatan	عَادَةً
ʔínda	عِنْدَ	máwʔidan	مَوْعِدًا
ʔáqadat	عَقَدَتْ	ʔárabun	عَرَبٌ
ʔálaa	عَلَى	ʔiʔláanun	إِغْلَانٌ

2. -ʕ- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔalʕ arabíyyu	أَلْعَرَبِيّ	yaʕ rifúuna	يَعْرِفُون
taʕ áawunan	تَعَاوَنًا	ʕáʕ bun	شَعَب
saʕ íʕtum	سَعِيتُمْ	taʕ íʕíʕu	تَعِيشُ
báʕ da	بَعْدَ	saʕaʕ úudu	سَعِيدُود

3. -ʕ- connected to the preceding letter only

mánaʕa	مَنَعَ	jaʕ íʕun	جَمِيع
yuð íʕu	يُذِيعُ	wáʕaʕa	وَقَعَ
tajtáʕiʕu	تَجْتَمِيعُ	máʕa	نَعَ

4. ʕ standing alone

ʔijtimáʕin	إِجْتِمَاع	ʔaðáaʕa	أَزَاعَ
ðiráʕun	زِرَاعَ	ðáariʕun	شَارِعَ
satuðáaʕu	سُدَّاعُ	náwʕin	نَوَعَ

Additional examples.

وَدَعَ	مَحَمَّالٌ	عَدِيدَةٌ
عَامٌّ	أُغْلِنْتُ	دُعِي
تَوْسِعًا	جَامِعَةٌ	يُعْتَقَدُ
يُعَيِّنُ	مَمْنُوعَةٌ	إِتِّسَاعٌ

31. The letter غ ġáyn is exactly like ع ʕáyn but with one dot above it.

1. ġ- connected to the following letter only

ġádan	غداً	ġáyrúhaa	غَيْرُهَا
ʔaġáaḏa	أَغَاظَ	ġáayatan	غَايَةً
ġárban	غَرَبًا	ʔaġnáamun	أَغْنَامٌ

2. -ġ- connected to the preceding and following letters

lúġatun	لَغَةً	ʔalġúrfatu	أَلْغُرْفَةُ
maġlúuṭun	مَغْلُوطٌ	yaštáġilu	يَسْتَغِلُّ
yúġliqu	يُغْلِقُ	bálaġanii	بَلَّغَنِي

3. -ġ connected to the preceding letter only

mabáaliġu	مَبَالِغُ	ʔalmáblaġu	أَلْمَبَالِغُ
tafriiġun	تَفْرِيعُ	tablíiġin	تَبْلِيغٍ

4. ġ standing alone

fáraġa	فَرَغَ	bulúuġun	بُلُوغٌ
sáaġa	كَأَنَّ	yúfriġu	يُفْرِغُ

Additional examples.

تَغَيَّرَ	سَوَّغَ	فَرَّغَ
إِنْ بَغَى	مَبَالِغَةً	بَلَّغْتُ

32. The letter ط *táa* is characteristically an egg-shaped loop with a vertical stroke above it.

1. *t*- connected to the following letter only

wáṭanun	وَطَنٌ	ṭaríiquhu	طَرِيقُهُ
ṭabíiṣṣiyyan	طَبِيعِيًّا	ʔáṭṭlaqa	أَطْلَقَ
ʔaṭáaqa	أَطَاقَ	ṭayyaaráatun	طَيَّارَاتٌ

2. *-t*- connected to the preceding and following letters

súṭṭatun	سُطَّةٌ	taṭáwwuran	تَطَوُّراً
ʔáṭṭaa	أَطَّى	maṭáarun	مَطَّارٌ
yaqṭaṣuḥaa	يَقْطَعُهَا	maḥáṭṭatun	مَحَطَّةٌ

3. *-t* connected to the preceding letter only

fáqat	فَقَطَ	náṭṭun	نَفَطَ
ʔalwásatun	أَلَوَطَ	xáṭṭun	خَطَّ
muḥíiṭun	مُحِيطٌ	ʔalʔáwsatun	أَلْأَوْسَطُ

4. *t* standing alone

liṣáṭṭin	لِصَرَطٍ	ʔinḥiṭáatun	إِنْحِطَاطٌ
naṣáatun	نَصَاطٌ	xuṭúṭun	خُطُوطٌ
ʔaḡláatun	أَغْلَاطٌ	ʔaḥáaṭa	أَحَاطَ

Additional examples.

يُعْطِي	مَغْلُوطٌ	شُرُوطٌ
أَلَوْ نَطَى	يَطْلُبُ	طَاقَةٌ
يَسْتَطِيعُ	خِطَابُهُ	مَطِيرٌ

33. The letter ظ ḍāa? is exactly like ط ṭāa? but with one dot above it.

1. ḍ- connected to the following letter only

ḍurúufun	ظُرُوفٌ	ḍáhara	ظَهَرَ
manáaḍiru	مَنَاطِرُ	ḍaahíratun	ظَاهِرَةٌ
ḍállat	ظَلَّتْ	muwaḍḍafúuna	مَوْظِفُونَ

2. -ḍ- connected to the preceding and following letters

niḍḍámun	نِظَامٌ	ḥintáḍarat	إِنْ تَنَظَّرْتَ
háafaḍat	مَا فَظَّتْ	munaḍḍámatun	مَنْظَمَةٌ
maḍḍáhiru	مَظَاهِرُ	ḥaḍḍíman	عَظِيمًا

3. -ḍ- connected to the preceding letter only

ḥintáfaḍa	إِخْتَفَظَ	láanaḍa	لَدَمَظَ
yunaafiḍu	يُخَافِظُ	ḡalíiḍun	غَلِيظٌ

4. ځ standing alone

muḏúuḏin

مُظُوځ

ʔintifáaḏun

اِئْتِفَآظٌ

ʔalfáaḏun

اَلْفَآظُ

malḏúuḏun

مَلْغُوظٌ

Additional examples.

تَعْظِيمٌ
مُعْظَمٌ
مُظَرَّرٌظَرِيفٌ
مَظٌّ
ظُرُورًاظَنَنْتُ
اِئْتِظَامٌ
اَظْهَرَ

34. The letter ص ṣáad is characteristically a small egg-shaped loop with a small tooth-like mark following the loop.

1. ځ- connected to the following letter only

ʔalṣaaṣímatu

اَلْعَاصِمَةُ

ṣaadiráatun

صَادِرَاتٌ

ṣárraḥa

صَرَخَ

ṣaḥíḥun

صَحِيحٌ

wáṣalat

وَصَلَتْ

laʔáṣḥana

لَا ضَبْعَ

2. -ځ- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔiqtiṣaadíyyun

اِقْتِصَادِيٌّ

taṣṣíḥan

تَصْرِيحًا

maṣṣáníḥu

مَصَائِعُ

ʔittáṣala

اِتَّصَلَ

ʔalṣáṣru

اَلْعَصْرُ

máṣḏarun

مَصْدَرٌ

3. -ṣ connected to the preceding letter only

xáṣṣaṣa	خَصَّصَ	ṣáxṣin	تَخَصَّصَ
ḥíṣaṣun	حِصَّصَ	yaḡúuṣu	يَغْوِصُّ

4. ṣ standing alone

ʔaṣṣáaṣun	أَصْحَاصٌ	báraṣun	بَرَصٌ
xuṣúuṣun	خُصُوصٌ	ḥírṣun	حِرْصٌ

Additional examples.

إِخْتِصَاصٌ	مُضَوِّلٌ	تَحْصِيلٌ
صَلِيبِيٌّ	فَصَارَتْ	يُضَدِّرُ
يَصِلُ	صُفِّ	صُفُوفٌ

35. The letter ض ḍāḍ is exactly like ص ṣaad but with one dot above it.

1. ḍ- connected to the following letter only

díddum	ضِدٌّ	dáḡṭun	ضَغْطٌ
mawḍúuʿun	مَوْضُوعٌ	ʔalmáadii	أَلْمَاضِي
wúḍiʿa	وَضِيعٌ	muʿaarádatun	مُعَارَضَةٌ

2. -ḍ- connected to the preceding and following letters

ʔáyḍan	أَيْضًا	qaḍíyyatun	قَضِيَّةٌ
ḥáḍarahaa	حَضَرَهَا	ʿúḍwun	عُضْوٌ

máḍaa

مَضَى

ḥadrátukum

مَضَرَ تَكُمُ

3. -ḍ connected to the preceding letter only

báḍḍun

بَعَضَ

ʔaríḍun

عَرِضَ

ḥáḍḍa

مَضَّ

ḥaḍíḍun

مَضِضَ

4. ḍ standing alone

ʔaráḍin

أَرَضِ

ʔárḍun

أَرْضَ

taʔárruḍun

تَعَرَّضَ

máʔriḍun

مَعَرَّضَ

Additional examples.

قَرَضَ

مَعَارِضَ

عَمَرَضَ

مُضَوَّرَ

أُمْتَضَرَ

فَضَّلَ

مَرِيضًا

إِغْتَرَضَ

فَرَضَ

36. hámzah

This section takes up in detail the discussion of the sign ʔ hámzah that was begun in Section 23. The sign ʔ hámzah, which represents the phoneme ʔ, may occur alone or together with one of three other letters. How it is written in any given word depends upon (1) where the phoneme ʔ comes in the word and (2) what vowel or vowels precede and/or follow it.

The letter with which the sign ʔ hámzah occurs is called the kúrsiyy 'seat' of the hámzah. There are three such seats, as follows:

كُرْسِيَّ

1. An undotted ى yáaʔ
2. A و wáaw
3. An ا ʔálif

A fourth way is hámzah alone without a seat.

These four ways of writing the sign ۞ hámzah are taken up in the following sections (36.1-5). Note that the letters used as seats have no sound value.

36.1 hámzah with yáaʔ

1. ʔ in the middle of a word

laajiʔúuna	لَجِئُونْ	súʔimat	سُئِمَتْ
yuhaddiʔúuna	يُرَدِّئُونْ	súʔilat	سُئِلَتْ
natáaʔiju	نَتَاجْ	bíʔrun	بِئْرْ
náaʔibun	نَائِبْ	jíʔtu	جِئْتُ
qáaʔimun	قَائِمْ	raʔíisun	رَئِيسْ
súuʔilat	سُؤِلَتْ	riʔáasatan	رِئَاسَةً

All the above words show the sign ۞ hámzah above an undotted ى yáaʔ. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel i.

2. ʔ at the end of a word

šawáaʔiʔu	شَوَالِئْ	hádiʔa	هَدِئْ
láajiʔun	لَجِئْ	xáʔiʔa	خَطِئْ
háadiʔin	هَادِئْ	yúbʔiʔu	يُبْطِئْ

All the above words show the sign ۞ hámzah above an undotted ى yáaʔ. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by the short vowel i.

36.2 hámzah with wáaw

1. ʔ in the middle of a word

muʔállifun	مُؤَلِّفٌ	muʔtámarun	مُؤْتَمَرٌ
yuʔáθθiru	يُؤَثِّرُ	masʔúulun	مَسْؤُولٌ
yuʔáddii	يُؤَدِّي	šūʔúnun	شُؤُونٌ
suʔáalun	سُؤَالٌ	báʔusa	بُؤْسٌ
tafáaʔulan	تَفَاؤُلٌ	yahdaʔúuna	يَهْدُوْنَ

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah above a ʔ wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by the vowel u -- but not by the vowel i.

2. ʔ at the end of a word

yájrūʔu	يَجْرُوْهُ	báṭuʔa	بَطُوْهُ
járuʔa	جَرُوْهُ	máruʔa	مَرُوْهُ

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah above a ʔ wáaw. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short u.

36.3 hámzah with ʔálif

1. ʔ at the beginning of a word

ʔújjilat	أُجِّلَتْ	ʔádnaa	أَذْنَى
ʔúxraa	أُخْرِى	ʔajáaba	أَجَابَ

ʔistáwra	اِسْتَوْرَدَ	ʔúulaa	أُولَى
ʔiiθáarun	إِيثَارَ	ʔúujida	أُوجِدَ
ʔiijáadun	إِيْجَادَ	ʔintáhaa	إِنْتَهَى

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah with an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) at the beginning of a word and (2) is followed by both long and short vowels except long aa (for which see Section 29). In such words the sign ʔ hámzah is above the | ʔálif if the next vowel is a or u, and below it if the next vowel is i.

2. ʔ in the middle of a word

tásʔalu	تَأَلَّ	qaráʔtum	قَرَأْتُمْ
masʔálatun	مَأَلَةٌ	taʔmíinun	تَأْمِينٌ
taʔállafa	تَأَلَّفَ	yáʔxuðu	يَأْخُذُ
bádaʔat	بَدَأَتْ	šáʔnun	شَأْنٌ
lájaʔat	لَجَأَتْ	máʔwan	مَأْوَى

All the above words show the sign ʔ hámzah over an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded or followed by short a (for long aa see Section 29) — but not by the vowels i or u.

3. ʔ at the end of a word

ʔábtaʔa	أَبْطَأَ	bádaʔa	بَدَأَ
lájaʔa	لَجَأَ	nábdaʔu	نَبَدَأَ
málaʔa	مَلَأَ	ʔibtádaʔa	إِبْتَدَأَ

yáhdaʔu

يَهْدَأُ

yúqraʔu

يُقْرَأُ

All the above words show the sign ʾ hámzah above an | ʔálif. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by short a.

36.4 hámzah standing alone

1. ʔ in the middle of a word

tašáaʔama

تَشَاءَمَ

sáaʔala

سَاءَلْ

ʔisáaʔatun

إِسَاءَةٌ

láaʔama

لَاءَمَ

jáaʔat

جَاءَتْ

tasáaʔala

تَسَاءَلْ

All the above words show the sign ʾ hámzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) in the middle of a word and (2) is preceded by long aa and followed by short a.

2. ʔ at the end of a word

baṭíiʔun

بَطِيْءٌ

wuzaráaʔu

وَزَرَءُ

bádʔun

بَذْءٌ

masáaʔan

مَسَاءٌ

šáyʔun

شَيْءٌ

jáaʔa

جَاءَ

hudúuʔun

هُدُوْدٌ

ʔijráaʔin

إِهْرَاءٌ

All the above words show the sign ʾ hámzah standing alone. Note that in these words the phoneme ʔ is (1) the last consonant in the word and (2) is preceded by a long vowel or by a consonant. The sign ʾ fatmatáan is usually written above such a ʾ hámzah, as in the second example in the right-hand column, but may also be accompanied by an | ʔálif as described in Section 6.

36.5 Variant writings of hāmzah

šáyʔan	سَيْنًا	or	هَيْنًا
háʔatun	هَيَّاهُ	or	لَهَيَّاهُ
rúʔiya	رُؤِي	or	رُئِي
míʔatun	مَيَّاهُ	or	مَيَّاهُ
ʔijraaʔiyyun	إِجْرَاءِي	or	إِجْرَائِي
tafáaʔulun	تَفَاؤُلْ	or	تَفَاؤُلْ

The above words show certain variants in the writing of the sign ʔ hāmzah. The representation of the phoneme ʔ is complicated by historical considerations and not all dictionaries and texts show complete consistency. The variants usually occur when the phoneme ʔ is the last consonant in the word or comes before certain endings. In your reading you may expect to find variations that do not precisely agree with the system as set forth here.

Additional examples of the writing of the sign ʔ hāmzah.

إِيصَالُ	تَأْمُرُ	دَائِرَةٌ
يَقْرَؤُونَ	وَنَامَ	مُرِيٌّ
دَقَائِقُ	جَرَائِدُ	هَدَايَاتُ
مَمْلُوكَةٌ	هَزُوءٌ	إِسْتَأْنَفَ
أَعْضَاءُ	أَصْدِقَاءُ	رَأْسُ
إِلْعَاقُ	أَنْبَاءُ	إِلْقَاءُ
قُرَاءُ	دَوَائِرُ	مَبْدَأُ
رُحَمَاءُ	أَنْبَاءُ	أَسْئَلَةٌ

37. A special way of indicating long aa

liðáalika	لِذَلِكَ	háaðaa	هَذَا
kaðáalika	كَذَلِكَ	háaðihi	هَذِهِ
laakíma	لِكِنَّ	haaʔuláaʔi	هَؤُلَاءِ
ʔalláahu	أَلَلَّهُ	háakaðaa	هَئَلَا
lilláahi	لِلَّهِ	ðáalika	ذَلِكَ

All the above words show an | ʔálif, indicating the long vowel aa, placed above a consonant, instead of following it (cf. Section 4.). There are only a few words written in this way; these are the most common.

Note that there is no special letter in the Arabic alphabet to indicate the phoneme l (the next to the last example in the left-hand column).

38. Pause forms

If you have been working through this material with an educated native speaker of Arabic, you have probably noticed that he does not always pronounce the same word in the same way. Such modifications in pronunciation typically involve the omission of final short vowels and nunation (cf. Section 6.). We call a form of a word modified in this way a PAUSE FORM.

A pause form is characteristically shorter than the FULL FORM of the same word. Pause forms occur typically at the end of a sentence, and in the pronunciation of single words in isolation, especially if such words commonly stand at the end of sentences. Within sentences pause forms may occur at the end of a phrase. Where pause forms are used within a sentence, and how often they occur, varies with different speakers and apparently depends upon the style of reading. This means that the same speaker will often read the same passage differently on different occasions.

The following examples will illustrate the modifications that occur to produce pause forms. Note especially that Arabic words are always written in their full form; the pause forms must be supplied by the reader.

1. Words ending in *táa' marbúutah*

PAUSE FORM

FULL FORM

jadfīdah

jadfīdatun

جَدِيدَةٌ

jadfīdah

jadfīdatin

جَدِيدَةٍ

jadfīdah

jadfīdatan

جَدِيدَةً

ʔaljadfīdah

ʔaljadfīdatu

الْجَدِيدَةُ

ʔaljadfīdah

ʔaljadfīdati

الْجَدِيدَةِ

ʔaljadfīdah

ʔaljadfīdata

الْجَدِيدَةَ

qáadimah

qaadīmatun

قَادِمَةٌ

qáadimah

qaadīmatin

قَادِمَةٍ

qáadimah

qaadīmatan

قَادِمَةً

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadīmatu

الْقَادِمَةُ

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadīmati

الْقَادِمَةِ

ʔalqáadimah

ʔalqaadīmata

الْقَادِمَةَ

In pause, words ending in *táa' marbúutah* drop final vowels and nunation (cf. Section 6.) and the *t* is replaced by *h*. This results in all the pause forms being alike. Note the change in the position of primary stress in the pause forms of the last six examples as compared to the full forms.

2. Words (except those with *táaʔ marbúuṭah*) ending in a short vowel or nunation

PAUSE FORM	FULL FORM	
jadíid	jadíidun	جَدِيدٌ
jadíid	jadíidin	جَدِيدٍ
jadíidaa <u>or</u> jíddan	jadíidan	جَدِيدًا
ʔaljadíid	ʔaljadíidu	الْجَدِيدُ
ʔaljadíid	ʔaljadíidi	الْجَدِيدِ
ʔaljadíid	ʔaljadíida	الْجَدِيدَ
mính	mínhu	مِنْهُ
bíh	bíhi	بِهِ
ffih	ffihi	فِيهِ
biláaduh	biláaduhu	بِلَادُهُ
jíddaa <u>or</u> jíddan	jíddan	جَدًّا
kaṭíiraa <u>or</u> kaṭíiran	kaṭíiran	كَثِيرًا

In pause, all final short vowels and the endings -un and -in are dropped. The ending -an is either replaced by -aa or remains unchanged. The replacement by -aa is the Classical form; the unchanged form is more common in modern reading.

3. Words ending in a long vowel or a consonant

PAUSE FORM	FULL FORM	
biláaduhaa	biláaduhaa	بِلَادُهَا
ʔalkúbraa	ʔalkúbraa	أَلْكُبْرَى
ʔalmáadii	ʔalmáadii	أَلْمَاضِي
yátluu	yátluu	يَتْلُو
biláaduhum	biláaduhum	بِلَادُهُمْ
bíkum	bíkum	يَكُم
fáqat	fáqat	فَقَطْ
járat	járat	جَرَتْ

In pause, words ending in a long vowel or a consonant remain unchanged.

39. Grammatical considerations

Up to this point we have described the Arabic writing system with a minimum of reference to the grammar of Classical Arabic. That is, we have regarded the problem as one involving the interpretation of the writing system without a knowledge of the grammatical status of the words and forms involved. However, it is necessary to know some grammatical facts in order to interpret certain peculiarities of spelling, and certain modifications of words when they come together within sentences. Most of the following sections will involve such facts.

40. Verb forms with a final ʔálif

táarakuu	تَرَكُوا	ʔajáabuu	أَجَابُوا
----------	----------	----------	-----------

kásaw	كَوَا	lájaʔuu	لَجَوْوَا
bánaw	بَنَوَا	ʔarsaluu	أَرْسَلُوا
rámaw	رَمَوْا	xárajuu	خَرَجُوا

The above verbs show the endings -uu and -aw meaning 'plural'. After such endings on verbs the writing system shows an | ʔálif. This | ʔálif has no sound value. Additional examples:

يَلْمُوا	بَلَّغُوا	يَلْتَرَمُوا
إِتَّخَذُوا	تَلَّوْا	يَتَّفِقُوا
تَرَبَّوْا	يَتْلُوا	يَحْضُرُوا

41. The prefix for "the"

Read the first word in the right-hand column and then the corresponding word in the left-hand column. Continue this way down the list.

ʔalkútlatu	الْكُتْلَةُ	kútlatun	كُتْلَةٌ
ʔalqáwlu	الْقَوْلُ	qáwlun	قَوْلٌ
ʔalʔámrú	الْأَمْرُ	ʔámrún	أَمْرٌ
ʔalbayáanu	الْبَيَانُ	bayáanun	بَيَانٌ
ʔalfúrṣatu	الْفُرْصَةُ	fúrṣatun	فُرْصَةٌ
ʔalxábaru	الْخَبَرُ	xábarun	خَبَرٌ
ʔalḡárbu	الْغَرْبُ	ḡárbun	غَرْبٌ

ʔalhuǰúumu	الْحُجُومُ	huǰúumun	هَجُومٌ
ʔalǧáayatu	الْغَايَةُ	ǧáayatun	غَايَةٌ
ʔalʕádadu	الْعَدَدُ	ʕádadun	عَدَدٌ
ʔaljaríidatu	الْجَرِيدَةُ	jaríidatun	جَرِيدَةٌ
ʔalmájlisu	الْمَجْلِسُ	májlisun	مَجْلِسٌ
ʔalwizáaratu	الْوِزَارَةُ	wizáaratun	وِزَارَةٌ
ʔalyáwmu	الْيَوْمُ	yáwmun	يَوْمٌ

All the words in the left-hand column show the prefix for "the". In Classical Arabic this prefix has different forms, depending on the first consonant of the word to which it is attached. When the first consonant is one of the following: k q ʔ b f x ḡ ḥ j m w y, the prefix is l- as in the above examples.

When a word having this prefix occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form ʔal-. This prefix written as a part of the word to which it is attached and does not affect the position of primary stress.

Note the combination لا láam ʔálif when the prefix is attached to a word beginning with the phoneme ʔ. The | ʔálif here does not indicate the long vowel aa.

Additional examples.

الْأَفَاقَةُ	الْبَحْثُ	الَّذَرَّاضِي
الْوَفْدُ	الْحَارِثُ	الْجَلَدَةُ
الْلَّزَّةُ	الْفِعْلُ	الْعِبَارَةُ
الرُّهْدُو	الْغَرَضُ	الْخِطَابُ
الْيَمَنُ	الْمِلْطَقَةُ	الْقَصْرُ

42. Variant forms of the prefix for "the"

?attiláawatu	التِّلَاوَةُ	tiláawatun	تِلَاوَةُ
?atṭaríiqu	الطَّرِيقُ	ṭaríiqun	طَرِيقُ
?addársu	الدَّرْسُ	dársun	دَرْسُ
?adḍuyúufu	الضُّيُوفُ	ḍuyúufun	ضُيُوفُ
?aθθáanii	الثَّانِي	θáanin	ثَانٍ
?aððáhabu	الذَّهَبُ	ðáhabun	ذَهَبُ
?aḍḍúhru	الظُّهْرُ	ḍúhrun	ظُهْرُ
?assáabiqu	السَّابِقُ	sáabiqun	سَابِقُ
?asṣufúufu	الصُّفُوفُ	ṣufúufun	صُفُوفُ
?aššaháadatu	الشَّاهَادَةُ	šaháadatun	شَهَادَةُ
?azzáytu	الزَّيْتُ	záytun	زَيْتُ
?annáadii	النَّارِي	náadin	نَارٍ
?arraʔíisu	الرَّئِيسُ	raʔíisun	رَئِيسُ
?allúġatu	اللُّغَةُ	lúġatun	لُغَةٌ

All the words in the left-hand column show a variant form of the prefix for "the". When the first consonant of the word is one of the following: t ṭ d ḍ θ ð ṣ ṣ̣ š z n r l, the prefix is t- ṭ- d- ḍ- θ- ð- ṣ- ṣ̣- š- z- n- r- l- respectively, as in the above examples. That is, the first consonant of the word is doubled.

The Arabic writing system consistently shows the letter ل láam in the prefix for "the", and indicates the variants by showing no ° sukúun on the ل láam

and by placing a \sim sáddah over the first consonant of the underlying word.

When a word having a variant of the prefix for "the" occurs in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence, the prefix has the form ʔat- ʔat- ʔad- ʔad- etc.

Additional examples.

الرَّغْبَةُ	الَّتَمَنُ	التَّسْرِيحُ
السَّعَادَةُ	التَّغَبُّ	الدَّعْوَةُ
الصُّحُفُ	الذَّخِيرَةُ	الزِّيَارَةُ
النِّزَاجَةُ	الضَّابِطُ	الطَّلَبَةُ
الظُّرُوفُ	السَّامَةُ	اللَّوَاءُ

43. hámzatu_lwásl

All Arabic words that are pronounced in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence with an initial ʔ and a following short vowel fall into one of two classes:

1. Those words that retain the initial ʔ and the following vowel under all conditions.
2. Those words that drop the initial ʔ and the following vowel under certain conditions.

That is, many words that in isolation or at the beginning of a sentence begin with one of the following sequences: ʔi- ʔu- ʔa- appear under certain conditions within sentences without this sequence.

The ʔ that is always retained is called in Arabic hámzatu_lqátṣ. The ʔ that is dropped under certain conditions is called hámzatu_lwásl. Words showing hámzatu_lwásl are discussed below.

43.1 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in a short vowel

Group I

ʔalqáwlu	أَنْقَوْلُ	ʔannahráani	التَّهْرَانِ
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ʔalʕáadatu	الْعَادَةُ	ʔalʕárabu	الْعَرَبُ
ʔalʔaǧʕáni	الْأَغَانِي	ʔistiqaalátuhu	إِسْتِقَالَتُهُ
ʔalʕárbu	الْعَرَبُ	ʔarruʔasáaʔu	الرُّؤَسَاءُ

Group II

máa báyna_nnahráyni	مَا بَيْنَ الشَّهْرَيْنِ
wayúmkinu_lqáwlu	وَيُمْكِنُ الْقَوْلُ
fíi jazíirati_lʕárabí	فِي جَزِيرَةِ الْعَرَبِ
qáddama_stiqaalátahu	قَدَّمَ اسْتِقَالَتَهُ
máʕa_rruʔasáaʔi	مَعَ الرُّؤَسَاءِ
fáwqa_lʕáadati	فَوْقَ الْعَادَةِ
samíʔtum báʕda_lʔaǧʕáni	سَمِعْتُمْ بَعْضَ الْأَغَانِي
qábla lʕárbí	قَبْلَ الْعَرَبِ

All the words in Group I begin with *hámzatu_lwásl*. The Arabic writing system usually indicates the initial ʔ in such words by the sign ء *hámzah*. Some texts omit the sign ء *hámzah* and indicate only the vowel.

Group II shows these same words in phrases preceded by words that end in a short vowel. Here the phoneme ʔ and the following vowel drop, and the omitted vowel is replaced by the final vowel of the preceding word. Such words are joined closely together in pronunciation; we indicate this in our transcription by a curved line () connecting the words involved. The Arabic writing system indicates this by the sign و *wáslah* over the ا *ʔálif*.

Part of the study of Classical Arabic grammar is learning what words and forms begin with *hámzatu_lwásl*. The prefix for "the" is one of the most common.

Additional examples.

عِنْدَ النَّزَايَةِ	نَشْرَةُ الْخُبَارِ
خِطَابُ الرَّئِيسِ	الْبَحْرُ الْخَمَرُ
جَزِيلُ الشُّكْرِ	عَاصِمَةُ السَّمَلَّةِ
مَضَرُ الْجَلَّةِ	سَافِرُ الْوَفْدِ

43.2 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by the prefix for "the"

إِسْتِقْلَالٌ	؟istiqláalun	أَلِإِسْتِقْلَالُ	؟alístiqláalu
إِقْتِصَادٌ	؟iqtiṣáadun	أَلِإِقْتِصَادُ	؟aliqtiṣáadu
إِنْتِدَابٌ	؟intidáabun	أَلِإِنْتِدَابُ	؟alintidáabu
إِسْتِخْلَاصٌ	؟istixláasun	أَلِإِسْتِخْلَاصُ	؟alistixláaṣu
إِسْتِجْوَابٌ	؟istijwáabun	أَلِإِسْتِجْوَابُ	؟alistijwáabu

All the words in the right-hand column begin with hámzatu_lwásl. In the left-hand column these same words appear with the prefix for "the". This prefix has here the form li- (in isolation and at the beginning of a sentence ?ali-). However, many Arabs read such words as if they began with hámzatu_lqát?. For example, they would read the first item in the left-hand column as ?al?istiqláalu instead of ?alístiqláalu.

43.3 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in a long vowel

Group I

عَلَى	؟álaa	مَتَى	ráttaa
إِلَى	؟ílaa	دَرَسُوا	dárasuu

jalsátuhaa	جَلَسَتْهَا	háaḏaa	هَذَا
fíi	فِي	máa	مَا

Group II

ʔála_zziráaʔti	عَلَى الزَّرَاعَةِ
ʔíla_lintixaabáati	إِلَى الِذْنِخَابَاتِ
háttá_ssáaʔati	مَتَى السَّاعَةِ
dárasu_lqadíyyata	دَرَسُوا الْقَضِيَّةَ
háaḏa_lmawdúufu	لِهَذَا الْمَوْضُوعِ
ma_ttaxaḏáthu	مَا اتَّخَذَتْهُ
jalsátuha_lʔúulaa	جَلَسَتْهَا أَلْأُولَى
fi_ššárqi_lʔádnaa	فِي الشَّرْقِ أَلْأَدْنَى
fi_jtimáaʔin	فِي أَجْتِمَاعٍ

All the words in Group I end in long vowels. Group II shows words that begin with *hámzatu_lwásl* preceded by the words of Group I. In such cases the long vowel is replaced by the corresponding short vowel. Additional examples.

سَمِعْنَا أَلْخِطَابَ	هَذَا الْقَاهِرَةَ
فِي التَّجْلِيسِ	مَا أَشْوَردَ
تَبَدَّأُ أَلْذِّدَاعَةُ	إِلَى أَلْيَوْمِ
عَلَى أَلْأَرْضِ	فِي أَلْمَاضِي

43.4 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by certain words ending in -aa and -uu

xattáa_ssík'ati

فَطَا آلِ لَكَّةَ

waxadaráa_ljálsata

وَمَضَرَا آلِ جَلَّةَ

manduubáa_lxukúumati

مَنْدُوبَا آلِ خُومَةِ

mustami'úu_lxadfi'oi

مُسْتَمِيعُو آلِ حَدِيثِ

manduubúu_lxukúumati

مَنْدُوبُو آلِ خُومَةِ

The endings -aa 'dual' and -uu 'plural' (with nouns and adjectives) are sometimes pronounced long before a following word beginning with hámzatu_lwásl. This occurs chiefly in a very careful reading style; more often these long vowels are replaced by the corresponding short ones, as described in Section 43.3.

43.5 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in consonants

Group I

ʔiláykum

إِلَيْكُمْ

ʔán

عَنْ

húm

هُمْ

qád

قَدْ

mín

مِنْ

báxaʕat

بَخَّثَتْ

bánaw

بَنَوْا

bádaʔat

بَدَأَتْ

manduubáyni

مَنْدُوبَيْنِ

samiʔtum

سَمِعْتُمْ

Group II

ʔáni_lmawdúufi

عَنِ الْمَوْضُوعِ

qádi_ntaházna_lfúrsata

قَدِ أَنْتَرْنَا الْفُرْصَةَ

bána@ati_llájnatu

تَحَكَّتِ اللَّجْنَةُ

báda?ati_lmafrákatu

بَدَأَتْ التَّمْعَرَةُ

samíftumu_lxitaába

سَمِعْتُمُ الْخِطَابَ

?iláykumu_l?axbáaru

إِلَيْكُمُ الْخَبَارُ

húmu_llaðfina_sáafaruu

هُمُ الَّذِينَ سَافَرُوا

míni_qtiraaháatin

مِنْ أَقْتِرَاهَاتٍ

mína_lqur?áani_lkaríimi

مِنْ الْقُرْآنِ الْكَرِيمِ

bánawi_lmadíinata

بَنَوْا الْمَدِينَةَ

mín_manduubáyi_lukúumati

مِنْ مَدُوبَيِ الْحُكُومَةِ

All the words in Group I end in a consonant. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with hámzatu_lwásl. Here these words add a final vowel, in most cases the vowel i. The word mín has two variants: mína before the prefix for "the" and míni elsewhere.

The treatment of the endings -aw 'plural' and -ay 'dual' (the last two examples in Group II) before a following hámzatu_lwásl is uncertain. According to some grammarians they add a final -i, thus: -awi, -ayi. This treatment will be followed here. Additional examples.

مَدَدَتِ الشَّهْرَ

مِنْ الْجَنُوبِ

عَنِ الْخَبَارِ

وَصَلَّتِ الْوُفُودُ

وَعَلَيْكُمُ السَّلَامُ

دُرِجَتِ أَيْدِ قِترَاهَاتِ

قَدِ أَنْتَرَيْنَا

دَعَتِ الْحُكُومَةُ

43.6 hámzatu_lwásl preceded by words ending in nunation

Group I

ġárban	غَرْبًا	ʔiṣlāʔun	إِضْلَاحٌ
šimáalan	شِمَالًا	masʔálatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ
ʔaxfiran	أَخِيرًا	ʔán masʔálatin	عَنْ مَسْأَلَةٍ

Group II

ʔiṣlāʔuni_ġtimaaf iyyun	إِضْلَاحٌ أَجْتِمَاعِيٌّ
masʔálatuni_qtišaadiyyatun	مَسْأَلَةٌ اقْتِصَارِيَّةٌ
ʔán masʔálatini_qtišaadiyyatin	عَنْ مَسْأَلَةٍ اقْتِصَارِيَّةٍ
yaḥúdduhaa ġárbani_lbáaru	يَحْدُثُهَا غَرْبًا أَلْبَحْرُ
wašimáalani_ljibáalu	وَشِمَالًا أَلْجِبَالُ
waʔaxfirani_ntáhati_ddáwratu	وَأَخِيرًا أَنْتَهَتْ الدَّوْرَةُ

All the words in Group I end in nunation, that is, the endings -un -in -an. Group II shows these same words immediately preceding words that begin with hámzatu_lwásl. Here these words add a final -i. Note that this final -i is not indicated in the Arabic writing system.

43.7 Omission of ʔálif with wáslah

lilʔusbúufi	لِلْأُسْبُوعِ	lilrukúumati	لِلْحُكُومَةِ
littaʔlíifi	لِلتَّأْلِيفِ	lilijtimáaʔi	لِلْإِجْتِمَاعِ

lirraʿfisi

لِلرَّئِيسِ

lilʿámali

لِلْعَمَلِ

When the preposition لِ li- is added to a word that has the prefix for "the", the ا ʿálif and the sign ~ wáslah of the prefix are omitted.

bismi_llaahi

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

ʿismun

إِسْمِ

The word ا ʿismun begins with hámzatu lwásl. When the preposition بِ bi- is added to this word in the above solemm introductory formula, the ا ʿálif and the sign ~ wáslah are omitted. This omission occurs only in the above formula; elsewhere the Arabic writing system shows the composite letter آ , as in the following examples.

bismi_rraʿfisi

بِإِسْمِ الرَّئِيسِ

bismi ʿafdáaʿi_nnáadii

بِإِسْمِ أَغْضَاءِ النَّادِي